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INITIAL COMMUNIST RESPONSE TO NEW UN TRUCE PROPOSAL
IS UNFAVORABLE

At the 25 May meeting in the Korean truce talks, during which the new UN truce proposals were presented, the senior Communist negotiator commented unfavorably on the provision for the ultimate disposition of prisoners unwilling to be repatriated. Nam Il stated that to release the prisoners in an area under control of the UN Command would mean "forcible retention," and that the alternative of submitting the issue to the UN General Assembly was "inconceivable." He further stated that this part of the UN proposal "could not be agreed to."

Comment: The UN Command's proposal, on the critical point of disposition of the prisoners who remain unwilling to return, is either to release them in Korea or to transfer the issue to the UN General Assembly if the political conference cannot agree on their fate in 30 days. The Communists were expected to reject this proposal, and they will probably reaffirm their demand for indefinite consideration of the prisoners' fate by the political conference, where their release could be indefinitely blocked.

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